

# CONSTITUTION

AND

BY LAWS

OF

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF

THE FUEL SAVINGS SOCIETY,

OF

THE CITY AND LIBERTIES

OF PHILADELPHIA.

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Instituted May, 1821.

Incorporated May, 1837.

Charter Amended January, 1846.

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PHILADELPHIA :

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,

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—1846.—

# OFFICERS OF THE FUEL SAVINGS SOCIETY,



PRESIDENT,

Townsend Sharpless.

VICE PRESIDENTS,

John Thomason,            John Harned.

TREASURER,

Samuel Austin Allibone.

SECRETARY,

William Robinson.

MANAGERS,

John M'Arthur,	Charles Ellis,
Paul W. Newhall,	Arthur G. Coffin,
Joseph L. Erringer,	John Bohlen, Jr.,
Ashbell G. Ralston,	Jesse Walton.
James Euston,	Rev. Thomas H. Quinan.
John Scholefield,	William G. Allen.

# THE FUEL SAVINGS SOCIETY,

OF THE

*City and Liberties of Philadelphia.*

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This Institution was established in the year 1821, and chartered in 1837, and has been in active operation from its establishment. Among its founders were a number of our most respectable citizens, and the late ROBERT RALSTON was its first President.

The article of Fuel constitutes a material part of the comfort of every family, and it is doubly important to those who are least able to procure it. Many of the rich have but an inadequate conception of the delight which a warm fireside affords to the laboring poor. Their range of enjoyment being narrower, their wants are more keenly felt than those of the wealthy. With sufficient food and clothing, and a comfortable fire in winter, they are but little agitated by those artificial wants, which, whilst they impel others to exertion, and are the causes, as well as the effects, of civilization and refinement, are seldom properly disciplined, or fully satisfied.

An Institution, therefore, whose object is to make any of the few comforts which this class enjoy, easier of attainment, should certainly commend itself to the attention of the benevolent; but when, as is the case with "The Fuel Savings Society," it has an additional and a higher object, it urges strong claims upon their attention.

To assist the poor in providing from their own resources, a sufficient supply of an article so indispensable to their comfort as fuel; and to encourage them in doing so, by a proper appeal to their interest, is the design of this Institution.

There are two kinds of charity:—the relief of immediate and urgent want—and the judicious application of assistance and encouragement, in such a manner as to incite to exertion, and to

promote self-respect and self-dependence. The former, although in many cases indispensable, and as being less troublesome to the giver, more generally practised, is yet often injurious in its ultimate effects upon the recipient, and forms no part of the design of this Institution.

To encourage economy, prudence, and foresight;—to teach that valuable, that indispensable, but little heeded lesson,—the relinquishment of present gratification for the sake of future benefit;—and to make better citizens, husbands and fathers; are some of the effects, either immediately or remotely, following from the action of this valuable Institution.

It is the custom among many poor families to depend for their daily support solely upon their daily earnings; in other words “to live from hand to mouth;” and in consequence they are often obliged to procure their winter fuel as they need it, in exceedingly small quantities, and at an exorbitant price. To this class of persons the Institution may be peculiarly valuable. It receives from them small deposits out of their weekly earnings, when employment is easily obtained and well remunerated, to be returned to them in the winter in Fuel, at summer prices, at such times, and in such quantities as may suit their convenience; thus, not only affording them assistance, but teaching practically the advantages of a prudent economy, and a reliance upon their own exertions.

There is another class disposed to be provident, and usually comfortable, who yet need aid in this respect. To these also, the Society is of benefit; by affording them their supply on easy terms, and obviating the disadvantage arising from their restricted accommodations, by furnishing it to their order as required.

From these remarks it will be seen, that this Institution is of kindred character with those by which the present day is characterized. Its object is to assist in “laying the axe to the root of the corrupt tree;” and in remedying the causes of want and crime, and by promoting *habits* of order, carefulness and economy, to remove, as far as can be done by human means, the necessity of almshouses, prisons and penitentiaries.

The resources of the Society being extremely limited, its usefulness is necessarily circumscribed; but when we reflect how

much good may be accomplished, by the expenditure of a moderate amount of means in carrying out its objects, we cannot but entertain the belief, that in this community, so proverbial for its wealth and its benevolence, there are many whose sympathies are with us, and who, sooner or later, will furnish substantial evidence of their consideration and regard for the cause in which the Society is engaged.

# CONSTITUTION

## OF

### THE FUEL SAVINGS SOCIETY,

OF THE  
*City and Liberties of Philadelphia,*

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**Incorporated May 11th, 1837.**

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Whereas, the article of Fuel constitutes an important item in the public, as well as private expenditure for the support of the poor, and it being expedient to devise some plan to diminish the increasing demand on public beneficence, and also to afford encouragement to habits of industry and economy; therefore, a number of citizens of Pennsylvania, desirous of promoting these objects, have associated themselves under the title of "THE FUEL SAVINGS SOCIETY OF THE CITY AND LIBERTIES OF PHILADELPHIA."

#### ARTICLE I.

##### THE OFFICERS,

Shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer, and twelve Managers, who shall constitute a Board; and shall be chosen annually, and remain in office until their successors be appointed.

#### ARTICLE II.

##### THE TREASURER,

Shall hold all monies and other funds belonging to the Society, and pay the same on orders signed by the presiding officer, countersigned by the Secretary; and shall give such security as may be required by the Board. His accounts shall be examined annually, and at such other times as they may direct.



## ARTICLE III.

### THE MANAGERS,

Sec. 1. Shall have power to elect Members of the Society, make by-laws, accept resignations, supply vacancies in their body, and generally to transact the business of the Society in its recess.

Sec. 2. They shall meet on the first Monday after their election, and subsequently hold stated meetings in each month, except July, August and September. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the President, or, in his absence, by either of the Vice Presidents, if requested in writing by two members.

Sec. 3. Five Members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

### FUEL COMMITTEE.

Sec. 4. The Managers shall appoint a Fuel Committee, whose duty it shall be to purchase fuel on the best terms; to provide a place for storing it; to superintend its distribution, and to report their proceedings at each stated meeting; and when their purchases are completed, to report the average cost of fuel, to enable the Board to determine the price for the coming season.

### RECEIVERS OF DEPOSITES.

Sec. 5. They shall appoint suitable agents to receive deposits who shall pay over the amounts when called for by the Managers.

The deposits from any one person shall be limited by the Board, and be subject to such other regulations as may be adopted.

## ARTICLE IV.

### DEPOSITORS,

Shall be entitled to draw fuel in the winter to the amount of their deposits, subject to such regulations as the Managers may adopt.

## ARTICLE V.

### MEMBERS.

Candidates for membership shall be proposed at a meeting previous to that at which they are balloted for; and the votes of two-thirds of those present shall be necessary to an election.

## ARTICLE VI.

### CONTRIBUTIONS.

Sec.1. The Society shall have power to assess an annual contribution upon its members, for the support of the Institution, provided the clear yearly income of this Society, from all sources, shall not exceed \$2000. Ten dollars in one payment shall constitute life membership.

Sec. 2. No officer or other member of the Society shall, directly or indirectly, receive any compensation for services rendered the Institution; nor shall they be responsible for any losses that may occur.

## ARTICLE VII.

### ALTERATIONS.

No alteration in the foregoing articles shall be made unless proposed at one meeting of the Managers, and concurred in at another, and finally confirmed by the Society; unless the same be proposed at one meeting of the Society, and agreed to at a subsequent meeting. No By-Laws, Rules or Regulations shall be made contrary to the Constitution or Laws of the United States, or of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or this Constitution.



**B Y - L A W S**  
**OF**  
**THE BOARD OF MANAGERS,**  
**OF**  
**THE FUEL SAVINGS SOCIETY,**  
**Of the City and Liberties of Philadelphia.**

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*Amended and adopted, May 7th, 1844.*  
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**ARTICLE I.**

**THE PRESIDENT**

Shall preside at the meetings of the Board, and in case of his absence, one of the Vice-Presidents; in their absence, a chairman shall be appointed for that meeting.

**ARTICLE II.**

**THE SECRETARY**

Shall record the proceedings of the Board, notify the members of the time and place, and of the amount of fines due; take charge of the books and papers; notify the chairman of each committee, of the object of its appointment, and the names of his colleagues; and perform such other duties as the Board may direct.

**ARTICLE III.**

**ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

**Sec. 1.** The Roll shall be called at the hour appointed; absentees noted and fines collected.

2d. The minutes of the last meeting shall be read, and, if necessary, corrected.

3d. Reports of Committees.

4th. Members to be proposed or balloted for.

5th. Committees to be appointed.

6th. Unfinished Business.

7th. New Business.

Sec. 2. Motions to commit, postpone, divide a question, or adjourn, shall always be in order; and a motion to adjourn shall be decided without debate.

Sec. 3. Any member may appeal to the Board from the decision of the chair.

Sec. 4. The ayes and nays shall be entered on the minutes at the request of two members.

Sec. 5. When a vote is equally divided upon any question, the presiding officer shall give the casting vote.

Sec. 6. No one shall withdraw from the meeting without leave from the presiding officer.

Sec. 7. Members coming in after Roll-call, shall be fined 12½ cents, and absentees from the meeting, 25 cents; and no excuse allowed, except for sickness or absence from the city.

## ARTICLE IV.

### MEETINGS.

The Stated Meetings of the Board shall be held on the second Tuesday of every month, (except July, August, and September,) at such time and place as the Board may direct.

## ARTICLE V.

### COMMITTEES,

Sec. 1. Shall be appointed by the presiding officer, unless otherwise directed by the Board; and they shall report in writing.

### COMMITTEE OF ACCOUNTS.

Sec. 2. A Standing Committee of three shall examine all claims

against the Society, prior to their being paid; except otherwise directed by the Board.

#### THE FUEL COMMITTEE,

Sec. 3. Shall open the Fuel Yard on the morning of the first Monday before Christmas, and on each succeeding Monday, till the second Monday in March, inclusive; unless otherwise directed. They are authorized to pay the orders of the Receivers for small balances, and report the same to the Board.

### ARTICLE VI.

#### THE RECEIVERS,

Sec. 1. Shall furnish each Depositor with a Pass-Book, in which shall be entered the date and amount of all deposits, and also the date of all orders for wood; and no deposit shall be returned, except by authority of the Board.

Sec. 2. No deposits shall be received after the thirty-first day of October, unless authorized by the Board.

Sec. 3. In giving orders for wood, if there should be a balance due any depositor, short of the price of an eighth of a cord, the receiver will be authorized to give an order for said balance, payable in money, on the Fuel Committee. All orders for wood must be handed in, at the Yard, before 12 o'clock, M.

### ARTICLE VII.

#### DEPOSITORS.

Sec. 1. After August, no one shall be allowed to deposit in any one month, a greater sum than three dollars; nor more than twenty dollars in any one season: nor shall any deposit be received raised by charitable contribution.

Sec. 2. Depositors shall be entitled to half a cord of wood every two weeks.

### ARTICLE VIII.

Alterations in the foregoing By-Laws must be submitted to a meeting previous to the one at which they are acted on.

